

Message Text

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ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/WE/JVSMITH:CM

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-----291552Z 021868 /44

R 291535Z DEC 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T STATE 312491

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: FT, PFOR, FR, US

SUBJECT: DECEMBER 10 MEETING WITH DE GUIRINGAUD ON FTAI

REF: PARIS 37279

1. AT DECEMBER 10 MEETING WITH SECRETARY IN BRUSSELS, DE GUIRINGAUD RAISED QUESTION OF AID TO DJIBOUTI AFTER INDEPENDENCE. IN RESPONSE TO THE SECRETARY'S QUESTION OF WHETHER TROOPS WOULD BE KEPT IN DJIBOUTI, DE GUIRINGAUD SAID THIS HAD NOT BEEN DECIDED. THE FRENCH WOULD LIKELY OFFER TROOPS TO INSTRUCT THE LOCAL DEFENSE AND POLICE FORCE AND HAD IN MIND A BASE WITH PERHAPS AS MANY AS 3000 TO 4000 TROOPS, IF THAT WERE ACCEPTABLE TO FTAI. THE MAIN DANGER TO THIS NEW ENTITY IS FROM SOMALIA AND POSSIBLY ETHIOPIA.

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2. DE GUIRINGAUD SAID DJIBOUTI WOULD NEED SUBSTANTIAL ECONOMIC AID. FRANCE WAS CURRENTLY SPENDING \$20-30 MILLION A YEAR (WHICH WAS SUBSEQUENTLY CORRECTED IN REFTTEL TO \$160 MILLION) AND THOUGHT IT WOULD BE WELL TO MUSTER INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT. THE SAUDIS WERE INTERESTED, AND THE FRENCH THOUGHT THE US MIGHT WISH TO HELP. THE IMPORTANT ARGUMENT

FOR AID WAS NOT ECONOMIC BUT THE THREAT FROM SOMALIA OR AN
IRRESPONSIBLE MOVE BY ETHIOPIA.

3. DE GUIRINGAUD ASKED IF THE US COULD USE ITS INFLUENCE
TOWARDS RESTRAINT IN ADDIS ABABA. THE SECRETARY REPLIED
THAT WE HAD LITTLE INFLUENCE THERE. THE ONLY WAY TO RE-
SIST A THREAT IS TO HAVE FORCE ON THE GROUND. DE GUIRIN-
GAUD SAID THE FRENCH WOULD URGE THE SOVIETS TO EXERT
RESTRAINT ON SOMALIA, AND THE SECRETARY THOUGHT THIS WOULD
BE USEFUL. DE GUIRINGAUD SAID HE HAD RAISED THIS WITH
GROMYKO IN NEW YORK, AND DE COURCEL HAD MENTIONED IT IN
MOSCOW, BUT THE SOVIETS HAD NOT RESPONDED. DE GUIRINGAUD
ASKED THAT THE SECRETARY RAISE THE MATTER OF THE SOVIETS
AND THE SITUATION IN DJIBOUTI WITH THE NEW ADMINISTRATION,
AND THE SECRETARY AGREED TO DO SO.
ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, SPHERE OF INFLUENCE, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE312491
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: CM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P840093-1816
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976126/aaaaaeyd.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 76 PARIS 37279
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 APR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <07 APR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DECEMBER 10 MEETING WITH DE GUIRINGAUD ON FTAI
TAGS: PDEV, EAID, PFOR, FT, FR, US, (DE GUIRINGAUD, LOUIS)
To: PARIS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006